

# California GARDEN

JANUARY-FEBRUARY

1993

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# HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR

Jan. 2	<b>SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION</b> Bus Tour to see Pasadena Rose Parade Floats Call 232-5762 or 277-5004 for information.
Jan. 3	<b>LOS ANGELES STATE &amp; COUNTY ARBORETUM</b> Southern California Gladiolus Society Bulb Sale 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. 9 a.m. until sold out. Entrance fee. Call 818/821-3222.
Jan. 7	<b>THE HUNTINGTON</b> First Thursday Garden Talk and Sale 1151 Oxford Road, San Marino. "What's New in Roses?" Slide lecture by hybridizer Tom Carruth of Week's Roses. 2:30 p.m. Call 818/405-2141.
Jan. 9	<b>SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY</b> Rose Pruning Demonstration Balboa Park Rose Garden. 9 a.m. Techniques and actual pruning in the garden. 495-5084.
Jan. 9	<b>QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS</b> Slide Talk, Classical Italian Garden 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas. Lecture by artist Erik Gronborg. 11 a.m. \$1 parking. 436-3036.
Jan. 10	<b>SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN</b> Fruit Tree Pruning Lecture 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes. Dr. Jean Natter. 2 p.m. Call 310/544-1948.
Jan. 16-17	<b>SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY SHOW</b> "Mini Show" Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Sat.: 11-4:30 p.m. Sun.: 10-4:30 p.m.
Jan. 19+	<b>SANTA BARBARA BOTANIC GARDENS</b> Basic Botanical Concepts Course 1212 Mission Canyon Rd., Santa Barbara. Four Tuesdays. 2:30-4:30 p.m. Call 805/682-4726.
Jan. 23	<b>QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS</b> Tour 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. Aloe garden tour by Phil Favell, horticulturist & grower. Admission free. \$1 parking. Call 436-3036.
Jan. 23-24	<b>SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN</b> South Coast Camellia Society Show & Sale 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes. Sat. 1-4:30 p.m. Sun. 10:30-4:30 p.m. Call 310/544-1948.
Jan 30-31	<b>LOS ANGELES STATE &amp; COUNTY ARBORETUM</b> Show 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia. Southern California Camellia Society Show. Sat. 1-4:30 p.m. Sun. 9:30-4:30 p.m. Entrance fee. Call 818/821-3222.
Jan. 30	<b>SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM</b> Whale Watching Coronados Islands Whale Watching Trip. 8-5 p.m. Call 232-3821, ext. 204 for cost and information.
Feb. 2, 9 & 16	<b>SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION</b> Flower Arranging Classes Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Room 102. Three classes. 9:30-3 p.m. \$25 members \$30 nonmembers for series. Call 232-5762 for information and materials needed.
Feb. 8-9	<b>SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN</b> Show 26300 Crenshaw Blvd., Palos Verdes. African Violet Society Show & Sale. Micro minis, large trailers, and pin wheel blossoms. Sat. 11-5 p.m., Sun. 10-4 p.m. Call 310/544-6815.
Feb. 6-7	<b>SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY</b> 46th Annual Show Casa del Prado, Majorca Rm., Balboa Park. Sat. 1-4:30 p.m. Sun. 10-4 p.m.
Feb. 14-23	<b>INDIO DATE FESTIVAL</b> Indio, CA. Call Indio Chamber of Commerce for information. 800/444-6346.
Feb. 16	<b>SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION</b> Quarterly Meeting & Program Casa del Prado, Rm. 101, Balboa Park. 5:45 p.m. \$5 members, \$6 nonmembers. Call 232-5762.
Feb. 21-22	<b>SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION</b> Desert Bus Trip (see page 31)
Feb. 23	<b>SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION</b> Advanced Flower Arranging Class Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. Room 103. One day limited class. 9:30-3 p.m. \$15 Call 298-5182 or 232-5762.
Feb. 27-28	<b>LOS ANGELES STATE &amp; COUNTY ARBORETUM</b> Show 301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, "Orchids Are For Everyone!" 9-4:30 p.m. Call 818/821-3222. Fee.
Weekly	<b>SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN</b> Docent Tours Balboa Park by Organ Pavilion. Tues., Fri., Sat. & Sun. 10-4 p.m. Donation. Free garden admission on Tues. Call 232-2780.
Every Saturday	<b>QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDENS</b> Free Guided Tours 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas. Visitors Center 10 a.m. \$1 parking. Call 436-3036.
Every Saturday	<b>OFFSHOOT TOURS</b> Free One-hour Plant Walks in Balboa Park Meet at Botanical Lath House. Canceled for rain or less than 4 attendees. 1st Sat., History Walk; 2nd, Palm Walk; 3rd, Tree Walk; 4th, Desert Walk; 5th, Sample of all four tours. 10 a.m. Starting January 16, 1993.

Deadline for submission to HORTICULTURAL CALENDAR for Mar./Apr. issue is Jan. 15.

*SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION is not responsible for changes in information which has been submitted by the organizations.*





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# A World of Plants so Close to Home

Don Miller

**QUAIL BOTANICAL GARDEN**; what is it? Webster says that a botanical garden is "a place where trees and plants are kept for scientific study and exhibition." It surely is that, but there is more. There is also a feeling of history and of the world.

Botanical gardens have interested mankind since early times. The first record of plant gathering (a major activity of some gardens for centuries) was etched in stone after Queen Hatshepsut of Egypt sent her plant hunters to southern Arabia in 1482 B.C. in search of the frankincense tree (genus *Boswellia*) to provide a source of the aromatic gum.

One of the most famous plant collections is the Royal Botanical Garden at Kew, England. Like Quail, Kew was started by a woman. In 1759 English Princess Augusta began her garden on nine acres. The garden was given to the state in 1842. By 1897 Kew grew to its present size of 300 acres with a final donation made by Queen Victoria carrying the proviso that part of the garden must remain in its semi-wild state (as is true of Quail).

Captain James Cook was commissioned by the Royal Society of England to lead an expedition to Tahiti in 1768. He was to view and chart the passage of the planet Venus across the sun hoping that the data gained would be an asset in future navigation. Joseph Banks, a botanist, offered to pay the expenses for himself and six assistants to accompany Cook and botanize in the landfalls of the Southern Hemisphere. In 1771 the expedition returned to England. Cook became famous for his voyage of discovery and Banks, then 27, shared equal glory for his botanical discoveries. Banks became the first, but unofficial, Director of Kew and launched a continuing campaign to send plant collectors throughout the known world.

In 1772, Kew sent Francis Masson, the first of the collectors, to gather plants in South Africa. Many of the plants gathered by Masson: aloes, euphorbia, pelargonium, and protea can be seen at Quail.

David Nelson followed Masson but his notoriety is for reasons other than plant collection. In 1778, Captain Cook was again sent to explore the South Pacific. He was to find out if there was a southern continent and to then search for the western end of the Northwest Passage. Sir Joseph sent along David Nelson as botanist. On board was a royal naval officer, Captain Bligh. Captain Cook met his

tragic death in Hawaii during this two-year journey.

In 1792, with Bligh as captain again, Banks ordered Nelson to Tahiti to gather cuttings and start seedlings of the breadfruit tree (*Artocarpus altilis*). The breadfruit were to be taken to the West Indies to provide a food source for slaves being held in large groups on the islands. After five months of selection, cutting and growing the seedlings to transportable size, Nelson was ready to load his precious crop and sail. The crew was in no mood to give up their idyllic life in Tahiti for a crop of breadfruit seedlings and shortly after sailing most of them mutinied, destroyed the seedlings, and set Bligh, Nelson and others adrift in an open boat. Fletcher Christian and the rest of the crew sailed the *Bounty* back to Tahiti, picked up their native companions, and ultimately landed on Pitcairn Island, and, as they say, the rest is history.



Illustration by Celia Hanson

Kew and its subsequent directors continued to send collectors to Australia and to the Far East. Alan Cunningham, in 1814, gathered seeds and cuttings of such Australian plants as araucaria, acacia, banksia, eucalyptus, and hibiscus. All of these are well represented at Quail.

One of the most energetic and successful of Kew's collectors was David Douglas. Douglas searched the northwest coast of America in 1825-1827 finding such popular and useful plants as phlox, ribes, penstemon, mahonia, and the most valuable commercial tree in the world, *Pseudotsuga Menziesii*, (Douglas fir).

Quail's history parallels aspects of this horticultural legacy. Queen Hatshepsut, Princess Augusta, and Mrs. Ruth Baird Larabee, who founded Quail, all were women who had a love for or saw the need to preserve plants. Plant specimens in the Quail collection span the globe in their origin. Although Quail is but one-tenth the area of Kew, its 30 acres well represents the Mediterranean climates of the world. Quail Botanical Garden is here for all to share, a place to enjoy the plants from far away places and to dream of yesterday or to wonder about tomorrow.

\* \* \*

SOURCES: Lyte, Charles, *The Plant Hunters*, Orbis Pub London, 1983  
Douglas, David, *Journal, David Douglas in North America 1823-1827*, William Wesley and Son, London 1914  
Her Majesty's Stationery Office, *The Royal Botanic Garden Kew*  
Whittle, Tyler, *The Plant Hunters*, Chilton  
DON MILLER is a docent at Quail Botanical Garden and a Master Gardener.

# A FORGOTTEN DREAM

Carol Greentree

**A**S WE BEGIN a new year and a new school term, we remember that the noble dream of establishing a horticulture school for our city is almost the same age as the San Diego Floral Association. *California Garden* was not yet two years old when a tentative site for an agricultural college appeared on the first plan proposed for the 1915 Panama-California Exposition. In October 1910, the city fathers had engaged "the best talent money could possibly hire", as expo director Charles Collier put it, to design a suitable site for the coming fair. At that time the southwest corner of the sprawling city park — which had just been renamed Balboa Park — was set aside for expo development. John and F.L. Olmstead, Jr., sons of a pioneer landscape architect, were selected to transform the scrubby area into a temporary Camelot: a garden fair designed to lure new businesses to San Diego's superb climate and excellent harbor.

In a preliminary Olmstead Brothers plot-plan dated January 1911, a building labeled Agricultural College is located near the point at which Elm and 18th Streets would cross if they extended into the park — just south of the old Navy Hospital boundaries. Probably that building was intended to serve as an exhibit hall during the exposition and to be converted to a school afterward.

However, egoistic frictions among the site designers, combined with economic cross-purposes among the expo planners, led to a chain of resignations that ultimately transferred the fair site to a different area of the park. Somehow, in the ensuing scuffle between civic ideals and practical realities, plans for the Agricultural College seem to have vanished. The fair was held on a central mesa of Balboa Park...but without a school to survive it.

Perhaps it was Kate Sessions who first suggested the Agricultural College? She was a college graduate and believed in education. She had landscaped Russ High School in 1908, not far from the location of the proposed college. She had landscaped other schools too, and in the process she sometimes gave impromptu demonstration talks to school children. In 1915, Kate was made the official Supervisor of Agriculture of the local schools.

Or perhaps the Little Landers Colony of San Ysidro encouraged the development of agriculture education for this region? The Little Landers were devoted to the communal concept that in this climate a family could supply its own food needs from a single-acre farm; that only a *little* land was required to survive and prosper. The Little Landers played an important role in the 1915 exposition by managing a working model farm — a popular attraction at the garden fair.

Whoever initiated the early idea of a specialized vocational school — whether Kate or others — must have become swept up by the intensity of fair preparations, unable to pursue the additional task of pressing for the Agricultural College. Today a downtown freeway hums just west of the school that never was.

Nonetheless, *California Garden* continued to remind its readers of educational opportunities for gardeners in San Diego. In September 1913, a series of "Official County School Agricultural Bulletins" began with the announcement of a school-and-home beautification contest. Later bulletins were published as "The Rudiments of Gardening" by George P. Hall, president of the Little Landers Colony. This series of basic lessons in botany and home gardening was developed for teachers to use as guidelines for practical class projects. *California Garden* became the distribution vehicle for these official bulletins: copies of the magazine were sent directly to teachers throughout the county, as a curriculum aid for classwork at various levels. To stimulate active student involvement in all kinds of garden projects, the magazine's editor, A.D. Robinson, encouraged students to write essays describing their projects and to submit photographs of finished work. As a further promotional incentive, school children were even paid a small commission for each new magazine subscription generated by students themselves.

Later issues of *California Garden* are sprinkled with horticulture education suggestions. In February 1914, a small notice urges San Diegans to learn gardening by mail;

"take advantage of the correspondence courses in agriculture now offered by the College of Agriculture at Berkeley. An announcement has been issued describing thirty-two courses, and others will be prepared when the need and demand for them is apparent. Each course deals with a particular [subject], treated in simple and direct language, easy to understand. Course No. 27 is on Home Floriculture and will be ready on March 15. No. 28, Home Ground Ornamentation, will not be ready until June 1. Send to the College of Agriculture, Berkeley, California for the circular describing the courses. These courses are all free and mark a long step toward bringing the state institution to the very homes of its supporters."

In the same issue, a full-page article lauds the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women, quoting the school's own prospectus: "...there is no occupation more honorable, independent or interesting than the profession of horticulture. Not only does it afford



opportunity for financial gain and contribute abundantly to the health and happiness of the individual, but, in the study of natural science, it opens up a broad field for intellectual life. Further, the extension of horticultural activities in America is desirable and necessary; and those who engage in the work are contributing directly to the general welfare of our people." The article closes with a query to readers: "Is there any reason why San Diego should not begin to think and plan for a similar school for her women? Shall the *California Garden* discuss this subject seriously?"

Throughout its long history *California Garden* has been a voice of inspiration to San Diego gardeners, presenting wistful pleas and editorial prods to local citizens — encouraging and admonishing them to get themselves a good garden school. Today Kate Sessions, George Hall and A.D. Robinson would surely be proud of the educational opportunities available to gardeners throughout our county. *California Garden* founders would delight in seeing that the dream they nurtured so earnestly for over fifty years has indeed become a reality in San Diego. Perhaps today's reality might even exceed their highest expectations...and for that achievement every horticulture educator in this county can certainly share the pride!

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CAROL GREENTREE is a garden writer interested in local history. She studied ornamental horticulture.

See page 141 of the September-October issue of *California Garden* for a list of educational programs and opportunities in San Diego County.



## NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

Robert Horwitz

**L**IKE THE TWELVE days of Christmas or the twelve months of the year, a gardener can easily develop twelve resolutions to greet the New Year. Here are the first dozen I've come up with, feel free to modify them for your own happy gardening in '93.

**One** — With water as precious as it is in our desert climate and no relief in sight, my first priority is **SAVE WATER!** Use what is needed judiciously.

**Two** — Be a recycler. This means getting to know your compost pile intimately. It also means sharing your surplus plants and vegetables with your neighbors...which can lead to unforeseen pleasant returns!

**Three** — Be weed free. Don't watch that baseball game, get out there and weed! All that bending and stooping is also good for the waist line. You can even put the good weed into the compost heap.

**Four** — This same kind of dedication is required for those pruning chores, and remember that it doesn't rain here often enough to be an excuse.

**Five** — This year I'm determined to fertilize when the plants need the nutrition, not just whenever I feel like doing it.

**Six** — Get nasty and be mean to harmful bugs. Resolve to get rid of them when you first see them, not when they have already made an infestation. And use the most environmentally benign methods in your meanness.

**Seven** — Repair those sagging garden structures and furniture, or install new ones while the stores are having sales on this kind of material.

**Eight** — Prepare each seed and plant bed, deep till that soil well to get good growth.

**Nine and Ten** — These are fun! *Plant* and *tend* your flowers assiduously, so that you can brag to your neighbors on the fecundity of your garden.

**Eleven** — Take care of your shrubs and trees. Repair their watering basins, prune them with pride, add new ones as needed to fill in those holes that you have neglected.

**Twelve** — Avoid impulse buying at the nursery. Just like you should not go grocery shopping when you are hungry, plan ahead for your garden shopping needs.

There are lots more resolutions, but we do not want to get overburdened. If you pay attention to the twelve mentioned above, you will still have time for that baseball game and going to the beach too.

\*\*\*

ROBERT HORWITZ occasionally writes with tongue in cheek.

## Plant Pot Hangers



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# KEEPING A TORTOISE WHILE PRESERVING YOUR GARDEN

Christina Macias

**T**O ME, a garden isn't complete without all of the creatures that visit or call it home. What better way to spend a glorious California afternoon than admiring the flashes of hummingbirds, the songs of orioles or the gentle ploddings of a tortoise? It is estimated that over 20,000 California Desert Tortoises are kept in backyards in this state, so here are a few tips on how to keep your pet happy and your garden intact.

In early spring, California's tortoises emerge from their three-month hibernation. Every year it seems like a small miracle to hear my own tortoise, Boris, stirring in his box of hay and then peering up at me with bright, beady eyes. Soon he's investigating his old haunts, basking in the warm sunshine and enjoying a lukewarm sponge bath to help replace moisture lost during his long sleep.

But tortoises and gardens are not entirely compatible, since the little animals are notoriously inquisitive and anything within reach is fair game. If you wish to preserve precious plants, a few precautionary measures are in order. For your pet's safety, the yard must be well fenced — this includes swimming pools or deep ponds. The little creatures have an insatiable curiosity and not a great deal of common sense. You would think that having survived dinosaurs, volcanoes and ice ages they would be more cautious, but they can get stuck in the strangest places. They are also prodigious burrowers. Being cold-blooded, their body temperature is regulated by moving from sun to shade during the day, so if you cannot allow your pet to burrow, you must provide him with some shade. An old dog house or even pieces of wood against a fence will do. We allow Boris to burrow in one spot underneath the patio. While this keeps him happy and occupied, it has provided some harrowing experiences, particularly during heavy rains when he has to be rescued from his flooded hole.

Poisonous plants must be removed or isolated. A raised border twice the height of your tortoise as he stands on his hind legs will deter him. He may grab at anything hanging over the edge, but he will not be able to bulldoze his way through tender seedlings, as happened to me one year with a whole row of hollyhocks.

There are many plants your tortoise will enjoy while adding nutrients and variety to his diet. Like birds, tortoises are attracted to the colors red and yellow, so make sure they are edible. Rose petals are one favorite, plus dandelion flowers, hibiscus flowers, creeping Charlie and green beans. You can also try offering apple, melon, berries or grated carrots. As a last resort, they will graze on your lawn but they much prefer lettuce, which is not of

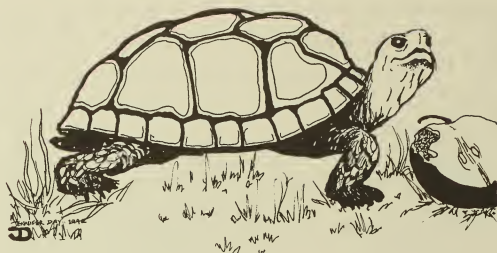


Illustration by Jennifer Day

great nutritional value. To vary the diet, make a mixed salad of spinach, romaine, escarole, alfalfa sprouts, grated zucchini and sliced green beans, adding a few rose petals for treats. You will soon find your pet's preferences, but since tortoises are picky eaters they should be encouraged to eat a variety of foods. And please make sure that water is available at all times, in a dish shallow enough for him to walk into.

Being inquisitive by nature, don't be surprised if your pet sneaks up behind you while you're busily weeding or planting. They seem to enjoy our company and will soon recognize their owners. Boris even comes to the kitchen door if I am late with his salad! He can spend hours watching the neighbors through the fence, or even a trail of ants. Which brings me to pesticides. Please use them sparingly, if at all. Tortoises sniff everything within their reach and sample all vegetation. Since tolerance levels are not known, it is best to err on the side of caution. You can have a binge and fumigate your yard once he hibernates.

In late October, you will notice your tortoise eating less and moving about more slowly. It is time to prepare his winter home. Find a box large enough for him to move about in, but one that he cannot easily climb out of. Fill it with clean, dry alfalfa hay, and sit him on top. If he's ready, he will dig down and go to sleep. If not, he'll try to climb out, so try again in a few days. The box should be kept in a cool place, with the lid partially replaced to allow for air circulation and left undisturbed until spring, away from rats, bright lights and small children!

You may find yourself looking for his perky little face while doing your winter garden chores, surprised at how

much you miss his quiet, unassuming presence. But around Valentine's Day you'll hear those familiar scratching noises coming from his box, and the miracle will start all over again.

\* \* \*

CHRISTINA MACIAS is a freelance writer who lives in San Clemente with Boris.

## PLANTS TO AVOID IF KEEPING A TORTOISE

amaryllis	foxglove
anemone	hyacinth bulb
angel trumpet tree	impatiens
azalea	mock orange
bottlebrush	morning glory
calla lily	rhodendron
cherry leaves	trumpet vine
daffodil	



# TREES OF BALBOA PARK IN BLOOM

Kathy Kalas Puhlava

WHILE OUR WINTER neighbors pour over spring flower catalogs, we can enjoy flowering plants year-round in San Diego! If you would like to learn more about the trees in Balboa Park, consider taking a free Offshoot Tour (see Horticultural Calendar page 2). Offshoot Tours resumes after a winter holiday break on Saturday, January 16th with the "Tree Walk".

BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	LOCATION
<i>Acacia Baileyana</i>	Bailey acacia, golden mimosa	canyon areas
<i>Arbutus Unedo</i>	strawberry tree	Alcazar Gardens
<i>Dombeya cacuminum</i>	NCN	Federal Building
<i>Eucalyptus melliodora</i>	honey-scented eucalyptus	Park Boulevard
<i>Eucalyptus sideroxylon</i>	iron bark eucalyptus	Morley Field, Desert Garden
<i>Michelia Doltsopa</i>	NCN	Municipal Gym
<i>Prunus hybrids</i>	flowering peach	Balboa Drive & Laurel Street
<i>Pyrus Kawakamii</i>	evergreen pear	Prado
<i>Tecoma stans</i>	yellow bells	Marston House

NCN = no common name

Camellias, azaleas, and aloes throughout the park will start putting on a show this time of year. Don't miss the spectacular blooms in the Desert Garden — it's a great way to warm up a winter day!

\* \* \*

References: botanical names — *Hortus Third*, common names — *Sunset Western Garden Book*  
KATHY KALAS PUPLAVA is the Balboa Park Horticulturist.

# OXALIS: To Weed Or Not To Weed

Catherine L. Zinsky

**L**IKE THE EGG, oxalis has gotten a bad rap. Many gardeners will crinkle noses and think 'weed' at any mention of oxalis. Certainly in a genus with more than 850 species there are going to be some that are best confined to the mulch heap! Still and all, there are select oxalis that respond beautifully — and neatly! — to cultivation.

The majority of oxalis are indigenous to both South Africa and South America, and belong to the family *Oxalidaceae*. Most are bulbs: some are rhizomatous, others have fibrous roots. All are characterized by three (sometimes four) heart-shaped parted leaves, very much resembling clover. This resemblance has given rise to some oxalis being mistakenly called the shamrock. (Actually there is no one plant that is botanically designated shamrock.) Wood sorrel is another common name for oxalis.

One of the more quaint characteristics of this genus is the closing of the leaves, umbrella-like, once the sun sets, only to unfold at dawn. Intense full sun will also cause the leaves to act in this manner.

Across the country oxalis are more commonly cultivated as houseplants, and as such are exceptional. Oxalis are as easy to grow as *Aspidistra*, with the additional asset of brightening a room by producing flowers. Here in Southern California this versatile charmer need not be confined solely to the house. Oxalis thrive outdoors in our unique climate, and are perfect additions to any color pot or container planting. There are even a few that make a delightful contribution to the front of a perennial border. *Oxalis rubra* is one such example.

*Oxalis rubra* is a bulbous plant, and is practically ever-flowering. It's an old-time favorite once better known as the window-box oxalis and, as its name suggests, has deep pink flowers. This oxalis forms a low mound as it matures, making it particularly attractive in the garden; moreover, its bulbs develop in densely packed groupings that allow for easy division without the worry of inadvertently spreading it from one end of the garden to the other. This is a real consideration with oxalis, for once freed from a container some can become quite invasive and are nigh onto impossible to eradicate, save by an aerial bombing.

*Oxalis Bowiei* is one oxalis that should be contained to be enjoyed. In a container *Oxalis Bowiei* can be quite an adornment; in the garden it becomes a nuisance that one learns to hate...and live with. (There is a poison available to eradicate oxalis. I simply choose the pest over poison.) *O. Bowiei* is a bulb from South Africa. The bulbs are

rather bullet-shaped and small. They are plentiful. Boy, are they plentiful! They are also elusive. Try as I might to eradicate a clump here and a clump there, I inevitably miss a bulb or two and find that I have merely aided and abetted this oxalis in the spreading of itself. I have learned to bag and deposit into the garbage all bulbs I have lifted.

The plant itself is a pretty specimen. Hot pink flowers with a yellow center open atop long stems, some reaching a foot long. Its leaves are large for an oxalis, and thicker. The leaf color is a gray-green. Coating the leaves are cilia, which are tiny hairs. This gives the foliage a soft, downy appearance, making this oxalis all the more inviting. The combination of largish leaves and long stems is the root cause of this plant's nickname, Giant Pink Clover.

Tantalizing is an even better adjective for *O. Bowiei*. In a container the plant exudes charm, a Lorelei tantalizing, teasing and tempting the gardener into releasing it into the garden. The urge is hard to resist. Suffice to say there are worse weeds.

Grand Duchess oxalis (*O. purpurea*, formerly *O. variabilis*) might be considered to be much like *O. Bowiei* by some, but not by me. I have Grand Duchess in many parts of my garden (by design, not chance!) and find that though impossible to remove once it takes hold, this oxalis is not pesky. It does not turn up in unlikely and undesirable areas, as can *O. Bowiei*. Don't mistake me! Grand Duchess will spread. It's simply manageable.



*Oxalis purpurea* 'Grand Duchess'

Catherine L. Zinsky



I use Grand Duchess as a ground cover under my roses. This oxalis is dormant all summer, breaking ground in September and flowering well into June. As you have no doubt already surmised, my Grand Duchess oxalis is a colorful relief beneath the winter-pruned roses for much of its flowering season.

Grand Duchess is a native to South Africa, and as such is drought tolerant. A container grown specimen will, of course, require more frequent watering. *O. purpurea* is also frost tender. A frost will set it back: a hard freeze will do it in.

This particular oxalis is one of the showier species. It is low growing with bluish-green leaves. The flowers, though short-stemmed, are sprightly and cheerful and are found in clear shades of pink, lavender and white. All have yellow throats.



*Oxalis Deppei*

Catherine L. Zinsky

Unlike the winter flowering Grand Duchess, Lucky Clover oxalis (*O. Deppei*) parades its glory, which are its leaves, throughout the summer. It can flower, but is grown more for its striking foliage. The leaves of *O. Deppei* most resemble a four-leaf clover, save that each leaf has a distinctive and eye-catching reddish-black blotch at the base. Lucky Clover is especially dramatic grown in a hanging basket. Though a native of southern Mexico, it prefers partial shade.

Oxalis will grow in just about any type of soil, but does best in a light, well-drained soil mix. A simple mixture of equal parts of loam and peat moss with a modicum of perlite thrown in for drainage will suffice quite nicely. If you prefer buying prepackaged mixes, the soil sold for the potting of African violets is adequate for oxalis. Most oxalis prefer partial shade.

And for those of you curious about that clover-like weed with the small yellow flowers that seems to pop up everywhere come spring, especially in ice plant!...yes, it is an oxalis. *O. corniculata* is an inheritance from Europe, and is considered an aggressive weed. Yet one gardener's weed can be another person's treasure, and many do in truth cultivate — or rather, let us say do not 'weed'...this particular oxalis.

A few of the choice oxalis can be seasonally found at Mission Hills Nursery and Walter Andersen's Nursery. Park Seed offers a new oxalis cultivar that looks tempting. It has striped flowers and is called *Oxalis* 'Candycane'. But be wary. This one even has a tantalizing name!

\* \* \*

CATHERINE L. ZINSKY is a free lance garden writer and the staff garden columnist for East County Weekly.

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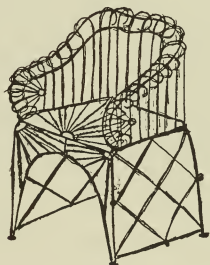
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# For Something Completely Different

Carol Greentree, Vivien Mayer and Janice Wright

**H**OW MANY TIMES have you gone shopping and despaired that “everything looks the same!” You won’t feel that way once you share the discovery of some of the delightful nurseries, florists and gift shops in this article. Their commonality is their unusualness, providing inspiration and delight in their botanical bent. Several members of San Diego’s Professional Women’s Horticulture and Landscape Association (PWHLA) have been visiting the shops and nurseries to provide this overview. Last issue we reported some examples of nurseries with unusual garden accessories to provide the *added touch* to personalize your garden. This issue, we are concentrating on floral and botanical gifts. The list is by no means comprehensive, but represents some of the trends in garden delights in San Diego County. We hope that it will pique your adventuring spirit to conduct your own exploration and discovery of the wonderful botanical and horticultural resources available here.



**BOTANICA** 294-3100  
1633 West Lewis Street (near the corner of Stephens)  
Mission Hills — a neighborhood of San Diego (92103)  
Hours: Monday through Saturday — 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Sunday — closed

Imaginative floral arrangements are the major focus at Botanica. These art works often feature fresh design applications of elements drawn from nature, giving new definition to the term organic. At Botanica, the fanciful uses of nature’s materials renew the visitor’s understanding of the meaning of creativity. To help expand customer awareness of contemporary arrangement styles, classes in floral design will be offered to the public after the holidays. Call the number above for information about this new service.



Botanica is chiefly a florists’ specialty shop, but it also carries an attractive line of garden tools — Dutch spades and forks among them — that are beautiful to look at and delightful to use. Other wares include one-of-a-kind pieces of garden furniture, distinctive terra-cotta pottery and galvanized flower-market buckets in assorted sizes.

Botanica is located in a pleasant, old-fashioned cluster of shops on a semi-residential block of a neighborhood that is rich in horticulture history. Parking is usually easy in this area. JW



**FEATHER ACRES FARM & NURSERY** 755-3093  
980 Avocado Place  
Del Mar, CA (92014)  
Hours: Monday through Saturday — 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.  
Sunday — noon-4:00 p.m.

Entering this nursery is like walking into a beautiful, inviting greenhouse. Large sections of stained glass from a Los Angeles Jesuit monastery provide a luminous backdrop for a serene, friendly plant shop. Natural elements have been used as much as possible to create a unique environment, and homey sitting areas encourage visitors to linger; to drink in the refreshing energy of the shop’s atmosphere at their leisure.

Feather Acres Farm began business as a chicken farm. Hence its surprising name. Later, it became an orchid nursery, specializing in cymbidiums. Today this women-owned enterprise is considered to have the best supply of orchids in North County, and most are owner-grown. The nursery is currently phasing out its general landscape plants in favor of an unusual florist service: customers bring their own containers to the shop for fresh-flower arrangements. Either the customer or the employee chooses blooms from striking black vases, to be specially arranged on the spot. Other nursery specialties include houseplants, baskets and willow-wood chairs and tables.

Parking is ample at Feather Acres Farm. You might want to call for directions if you’ve never been here before. VM

2402 S. Escondido Boulevard  
Escondido, CA (92025)

Hours: Monday through Saturday — 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.;  
Thursday — 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Sunday — closed

Owned by mother-and-son team Diane and Dave Hansen, this former Brookside Winery was converted to a color-filled nursery and gift store about a decade ago. Just last year the nursery section was phased out entirely, in favor of a wide array of top-of-the-line gifts. Many of these wares are clever, unusual items, not to be found elsewhere — including original decorative containers with conversation-piece appeal. The range of offerings here extends from fragile silk flowers to garden sundials.

Canterbury Gardens does a thriving holiday business. The annual spring open house attracts visitors from all over the county, and preparations for Christmas begin in July. Seasonal displays make this shop an all-year holiday center — for personal needs as well as for gift shopping.

Canterbury Gardens is a bit off the beaten path, but many patrons think this shop is worth driving across town (or county) to visit. Parking is excellent, and spouses who don't garden can enjoy a novel feature: a verdant putting green, kept fresh with water from the owner's well. VM

\* \* \*

CAROL GREENTREE is a free lance garden writer living La Jolla.

VIVIEN MAYER is promotes community gardening. She lives in Escondido.

JANICE WRIGHT is a professional gardener and past president of PWHLA.

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## WINTER RAMBLINGS — WISTERIA

Peter Loewer

**T**HE OTHER afternoon over at the Asheville Botany Center, I noticed a library book called *Wall Shrubs & Hardy Climbers* by W.J. Bean. This English book, first published in April of 1939, is notable for the number of unusual climbing vines and shrubs that are covered in its pages. While flipping through entries devoted to marvelous but completely unobtainable plants (including a real beauty called *Mutisia retusa*, an evergreen climbing daisy from Chile), I noted an entry entitled wistaria. Now what, I wondered, what are wistarias?

It seems that this genus of twining deciduous climbers was originally named after Caspar Wistar, an American scientist (1761-1818), and the correct name for wistaria is wistaria. Well, don't hold your breath waiting for the change. Apparently American horticulturists — never an obliging lot — decided that the vine was named for Owen Wister (1860-1938) since both he and Wistar were born in Philadelphia. Wistar wrote the first American book on anatomy while Wister wrote *The Virginian*, a novel of Wyoming that hit the big time in 1902.\*

Now if you were going to name a vine would you choose an anatomist or a writer of westerns? Obviously that's a rhetorical question since when's the last time you heard someone say: "you should see the beautiful wistarias blooming at the botanical garden?" Either way, instead of growing the Asian import, the next time a wistaria enters into your garden plans, why not try one of our American species, particularly *Wisteria frutescens*? The flowers are just as pretty and bloom in late spring, usually in early May.

\* \* \*

\* Ernie Chew, local horticulturist, indicates that the name was first misspelled by Nuttall, the author of *The Genus*.

PETER LOEWER is author and illustrator of many garden books and resides in Asheville, NC.

## JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN TO PLANT WISTERIA ARBOR

**WE LOOK FORWARD** to the addition of a wistaria arbor planned to be constructed over part of the patio area in the Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park. Donations toward construction costs and the initial planting will be gratefully accepted by the Japanese Friendship Garden Society of San Diego. The arbor will feature *Wisteria floribunda*, one of the most common and best of the hardy species. Its simple configuration remains true to Japanese fashion and style.

# THE GENUS BABIANA

Jim Duggan

**I**T HAD BEEN a very busy day in the nursery. Seedlings demanded more root space. A bulging pot of ornamental grass needed dividing. A too busy trail of ants warned of some insect troubles nearby. And then the spicy cinnamon fragrance caught me as I hurried to another task.

This was a new fragrance. My attention changed as I searched for the source. My senses led me to several pots of a dwarf flower bulb that was smothered with pale blue-violet blossoms. The fragrance had pulled me from 20 feet



*B. nana var. angustifolia*

Jim Duggan

away. The dwarfed (5") narrow leaved specie was *Babiana nana* var. *angustifolia*. I have been delighted by the fragrance of many other of the South African babianas since this first encounter.

The genus *Babiana* takes

its name from the African word for "baboon". *Babiana* corms are a favorite food for the beasts and the plants are commonly called "baboon flowers". The deep seated corms produce pleated or ribbed leaves. Flowers can be cup-shaped (regular) or an unequal, two-lipped shape (irregular or zygomorphic). Lower segments of petals are often marked or blotched. They like to be planted 6" to 9" deep in well drained soil. Many will reseed and prosper in sunny garden conditions. The smaller species are ideal in containers.



*Babiana* hybrid "Wintergreen" Jim Duggan

A container full of *B. nana* var. *angustifolia* is a real treat. Other dwarf species include:

*B. ambigua* — a 6" plant with medium purple flowers marked with white and red.



*Babiana odorata*

Jim Duggan

*B. attenuata* — carries blue-purple blooms with large white blotches and is slightly smaller.

*B. pygmaea* — stunning 2 1/4" cream colored blossoms are always a delight.

Some taller babianas which carry their flowers higher include:

*B. dregei* — an 8" specie with stiff pointed leaves. Flowers of medium purple with cream and red-purple marks open mid-way into the foliage.

*B. ecklonii* — the rich purple blooms show well three-quarters of the way into the leaves.

*B. odorata* — brings scented light yellow flowers.

*B. patersoniae* — a favorite flower with pastel purple blooms carrying cream-yellow blotches.

*B. rubrocyanea* — is one of the loveliest and most well-known species, called the



*Babiana rubrocyanea*

Jim Duggan

The "Wine Cup Babiana". The flowers are blue-purple with a striking red center. At a height of 10" to 12" the flowers are held above the foliage for a superb display.


*B. stricta* — is another taller species with many hybrids. The colors include mauve to maroon. One even has petals alternating white and lavender.

*B. pulchra* — is one of the best for landscape use. This has a beautiful deep blue-purple flower. There is also a rare white selection.

There are 63 species in this genus and they all offer lovely colors. Many are fragrant and most are of easy culture. The garden will take many, but some grow best when given a dry summer dormant period. Most increase quickly into clumps which should be divided every three to four years.

\*\*\*

JIM DUGGAN is a commercial nurseryman who lives in Leucadia and specializes in unusual plants, particularly South African bulbs.



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# A REASON TO PRESERVE

Gloria Iris Glasser

**W**HEN THE WORLD begins to close in on me — too much noise, busyness, heat — I seek refuge in the Conejo Valley Botanic Garden, a 35-acre, authentic grass roots garden project located in the city of Thousand Oaks. Within moments of passing through the handsome wrought iron and stonework gate that marks entry into a world removed from urban constraints and complaints, I know I've come to the right place.

The rains prove a boon to the garden, imbuing it with unprecedented lushness. The scent of Digger and Torrey pines circulate on a hot breath of wind, and among the swaying wild oats and black mustard there flare the silken flowers of California poppies and scarlet flax. A ground squirrel surveys the scene in the shadow of wild blue lilac (*Ceanothus species*). Foliage and cascading limbs of the flannel bush (*Fremontodendron californicum*) can barely be discerned, so thickly covered are they by waxy, hibiscus-like golden star-shaped blossoms. Surges of hot dry air tousle cottonwood saplings, a species seemingly created to demonstrate the visual poetry of wind-generated motion.

A pileated woodpecker flits into the crown of a valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), his form immediately consumed by the oak's shining greenery. I sit, growing cooled and indolent, on the bench shaded by the woodpecker's oak, overlooking a small brook.

Put an overworked, overheated land developer and/or builder beneath this same gracious native oak and perhaps we would never see another tree of any sort imperiled on land slated for development. How could one contemplate destroying something so selfless, giving and ruggedly beautiful?

Too often developers of new subdivisions and shopping centers present their idea of the "open space" that environmentally-conscientious citizens and city council members have forced them to dedicate as this: an utterly cleared, flattened area freshly sodded over and bristling with a few toothpick saplings, located by a trafficky intersection. Opportunities for nature study are nil, and as for character — an artistic mural depicting what a park *should* look like might have served better the community than the final result. Not so the Conejo Valley Botanic Garden (CVBG), a rough and hilly property situated a few winding blocks from a sprawling shopping mall and California's busiest freeway. The 20-year old garden was born of generosity and continues to prosper largely based on this ingredient. Donated to the Conejo Recreation and Park District in 1972, the site came with only one string attached — that a botanic garden be created on the oak and

chaparral-covered hill, incorporating the abundant native flora while adding specimens that would adapt to, and further enhance the setting.

A core group of volunteers established the Gregor Mendel Botanic Foundation and obtained a "cooperative lease agreement" from the Park District for an initial 50-year term. Time enough to fence off the property, map out trails and install irrigation systems, and start planting. Volunteers — including seniors, Eagle Scouts, school groups and even corporate bigwigs — look after the collection, much of which is either donated by private individuals and commercial nurseries, or made possible by grants or donations from local businesses and corporate sponsors. Plans are in the works to expand the Garden's modest on-site plant propagation/nursery facility. There is no admission charge, the Garden is open 365 days a year from sunup to sundown. Well-sited benches and picnic tables are available to satisfy the soul as well as the appetite, and anyone who wishes to become involved in the Garden's stewardship is encouraged to do so. Quite a deal they have going out in Thousand Oaks, wouldn't you say?

The youthful CVBG is a developing garden still in search of a bona fide theme or direction for its planted specimens. They run the gamut from commonplace to exotic, linked primarily by their drought tolerant natures. The north-facing hillside has been preserved as an oak woodland where a nature trail provides a showcase for native wildflowers, shrubs and trees. Rustic bridges span the creek here, thickly shaded by live oaks, willows and moisture-loving California fan palms (*Washingtonia filifera*). Right now the garden teaches *only* an appreciation of these various plants for what they are, no more or less. But viewed in a semi-wild, panoramic top of the world (well, top of the valley) setting, they somehow seem unique and memorable.

Bees and a single white butterfly work the blue spires of Pride of Madiera. Rock roses and primroses add delicate strokes of color against the bark mulch, and huge, flashy trumpets of amaryllis show beneath a carob tree. From my shady bench I rise to go, refreshed and grateful.

\* \* \*

For more information, contact the Conejo Valley Botanical Garden, PO Box 1382, Thousand Oaks, CA 91358; (805) 494-7630.

GLORIA IRIS GLASSER writes articles on horticulture and wildflowers.







## CAMELLIAS, Flowers of the Orient, Bring Pleasure to the West

Edalee Harwell

**T**HE ORIGINS of the camellia are lost in the mists of the ancient Orient. Cultivation probably goes back to the time someone first discovered that boiling the new leaves of *Camellia sinensis* produced a delicious, stimulating drink. We call it tea.

According to one legend, Buddha himself created the camellia. It is said he took pity on a priest who had punished himself for falling asleep at prayer by cutting off his eyelids. Buddha restored the priest's eyelids and turned those discarded into tea plant leaves.

In China the other purely ornamental camellias were simply referred to as "wild tea" and there is little mention of them in early literature. In A.D. 590 however, a book from the Sui Dynasty rumored the existence of a yellow camellia.

Because *Camellia reticulata* flowers at Chinese New Year (February-March), it is often exchanged as a holiday gift symbolizing prosperity and long life. Temple grounds and courtyards in Yunnan have many old camellias living in tubs. Such a plant, when part of a child-bride's dowry, might be her only living link with home and family never to be seen again.

In Japan camellias also grow wild — from the mountains to the sea and throughout all the islands. But these usually have only small, red, few-petaled single flowers. Certain cultivated varieties of *Camellia japonica* are among the oldest in the world. They have been selected and refined to suit local preference for thousands of years.

When the Japanese borrowed the Chinese custom of sweeping out bad spirits at New Year, they substituted a branch of flowering camellia for the flowering peach. A camellia rod was part of a Buddhist priest's attire, and oil from its seeds was used in both Japanese religious and court ceremonies.

The camellia plant and flower, as well as the leaves' distillation, became significant parts of the Japanese tea ceremony. That ceremony was an offshoot of Zen Buddhist teachings of nonviolence and developed in reaction against the violence and war games of the day.

The common folk of Japan cultivated camellias for practical purposes. The red flowers made dye; the wood made both good charcoal for cooking and implements of all kinds. Oil from camellia seeds was used in medicine, cosmetics and cookery.

The very-large-flowered *C. reticulatas* were known as "Chinese Camellias" when they first arrived in Japan — probably in the 17th Century.

The Japanese species *C. japonica* has long been the focus of western hobbyists. The West knew them first simply as "japonicas".

Camellias finally reached the United States after the opening of the Orient to trade. 'Alba Plena', a white, formal, double flower, was the first named variety to come. It was imported from England in July 1800 by nurseryman Michael Floy on behalf of John Stevens, Esq., of Hoboken, New Jersey.

At first camellias were considered delicate hothouse plants here, but once the extent to which they would take cold was known, they spread into the south and eventually to California. Huge old camellia trees in Sacramento indicate that they prospered — and in 1910 it was named "Camellia City". In San Diego some residential neighborhoods built in the Forties now have big, hardy camellia trees reflecting their early popularity and sturdy nature.

Americans certainly took to this lovely flower. It was not long before they were trying to vary and improve it. Hybridizers were titillated and challenged in 1949 with the arrival of the huge-flowered (6 - 7") *Camellia reticulata*. That species grew in Yunnan, a remote mountainous region in the south of China. It was prized there and serves even today as the floral emblem of the province.

Yellow was not part of the hybridizer's palette until a handful of seed of *Camellia chrysantha* arrived from China in 1980 and set off a wave of hybridizing. The bright gold of the button-sized flowers thrilled camellia fans in California where it first bloomed outside of China. Although crosses with other species have been made, none have yet bloomed showing yellow. There are now rumors of still another yellow species.

Camellia enthusiasts will enjoy two shows presented by the San Diego Camellia Society, January 16-17 and February 6-7, 1993.

\* \* \*

EDALEE HARWELL is Secretary of the San Diego Camellia Society, and is employed at the San Diego Zoo.

JENNIFER DAY a free lance artist and graduate of Coronado High School provided the illustration.



## Now Is The Time . . .

A CULTURAL CALENDAR OF CARE FROM OUR AFFILIATES  
Compiled by Penny Bunker



### BEGONIAS

Margaret Lee

**KEEP** fallen leaves off foliage and out of pots.  
**REMOVE** dead leaves from plants.

**MAKE** sure plants do not get too dry or too wet. Less water is needed at this time due to slower growth.

**MOVE** plants to more protective place if they are getting too much moisture from rains.

**SPRAY** for mildew, mealybugs, or loopers. Control slugs and snails.

**START** cutting back — lightly on the canes and shrub type toward end of period, about Washington's birthday.

**START** tuberous begonias in February for blooms later.



### BONSAI

Dr. Herbert Markowitz

**REDUCE** watering during a rainy season; they need less water during this

slower growth period, but do not allow to dry out. Check your trees *every day*.

**USE** a dormant spray such as cooper oil, or lime sulphur mixture — particularly on maples, quince and other deciduous trees, after they have been pruned.

**WATCH** for aphids and other sucking insects; spray accordingly.

**REMEMBER** not to fertilize your trees.

**GRAFT** conifers during January, and the deciduous trees in February.

**CHECK** deciduous trees carefully. If there is warm weather in late February, keep trees in the shade so they will not start blooming and sprouting too early.

**PRUNE** fruit-bearing bonsai.



### BROMELIADS

Mary Siemers

**KEEP** plants from damage by possible hail.

Give them overhead protection such as placing them under trees, shade cloth or any other suitable material.

**PROTECT** plants from freezing temperatures: keep at least 2' above ground and cover with newspaper, sheets, etc. or bring them indoors.

**BE CAREFUL** when having plants indoors, not to place in front of a heating vent or in a drafty area.

**REMEMBER** to put fresh water in the center cup about once a week to keep from becoming stagnant.

**EMPTY** water from outdoor plants when it has rained consistently for two or three days; weight of too much water can cause their leaves to spread apart, affecting their compact form.

**CUT DOWN** on frequency of watering during the cooler weather.

**DO NOT** fertilize until weather begins to warm up.



### CACTI & SUCCULENTS

Joseph Betzler

**REMEMBER** the summer growing plants will not grow as much now and the winter growers

should be showing signs of activity.

**BE CAREFUL** with water and fertilizer. As it gets cold, water in the early part of a sunny day; if it looks like rain, it is better to hold off on the water. This allows water to evaporate and plant disease does not start as easily.


**PROTECT** outside plants from excess rain where possible. A little frost protection with a piece paper or plastic can save a plant. Many succulents will turn into a mass of soggy pulp if frozen. (Do not forget to remove cover when conditions are more favorable).

**WATCH** new cuttings, they may not root as fast, and if you can supply bottom heat you should not have much of a problem.

**KEEP** an eye on the seedlings. Fungi can be a problem at this time. Snails can make a great midnight snack of the seedlings — use some form of snail and slug control if needed.

**CLEAN** up those old pots, and pick up the last of the leaves and other debris so as not to encourage rodents. Rodents can make a mess of your good plants.

**NOTE** plants to propagate next growing season and find out how to make new starts. Plan your displays for the Spring show. Find out more about growing winter succulents, to increase your collection.



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## CAMELLIAS

E.C. Snooks

**PICK** up fallen blooms to avoid the spread of petal blight.

**MAINTAIN** a regular watering schedule; plants need to be moist but *not* wet.

**REPLACE** mulch as needed.

**CONTINUE** a feeding program with 2-10-10 to established plants.

**MAKE** grafts.

**SELECT** new varieties while they are in bloom.

**TRANSPLANT** camellias. They are dormant at this time. Never fertilize a newly transplanted bush, but water well and often.

**ENJOY** your blooms as fruit of your labors.

**SHOW** your blooms in the San Diego Camellia Society Show February 6th and 7th. Special classes for novice growers. Contact Gene Snooks for details, 454-6659.



## DAHLIAS

**CUT OFF** tops just above the soil level, and dig any tubers left in the ground. (By January, the tops should be completely withered.)

**STORE** tubers without dividing them; leave on any soil that clings. Store in vermiculite or sand and keep in a cool place.

**INSPECT** those tubers stored earlier for signs of shriveling, if dry add a little moisture.

**START** to prepare the planting bed in February. Turn the soil, add humus and fumigate. Two or three weeks prior to planting, thoroughly dig in humus and equal parts of superphosphate and sulphate of potash and turn well.

**SELECT** some roots to sprout in February. Bottom heat can be applied to encourage sprouting.

## EPIPHYLLUMS



**PROTECT** plants from unexpected frost and strong wintry winds.

**BAIT** for slugs and snails.

**SPRAY** insecticides only if necessary — do not use oil-base types. Use Orthene™, Malathion™, and Cygon™ available locally. Read and follow directions carefully.

**PRUNE** dead and unsightly growth, allowing more energy to be available for newer and healthier branches.

**FEED** mature plants with a 0-10-10 fertilizer to promote blooming in spring — use liquid or slow-release granules; another application may be necessary in about 30 days.



## FERNS

Ray Sodomka

**WATER** — do not rely on rains for sufficient moisture.

**TRIM** old fronds only in frost-free areas.

**SPRAY** for aphids — especially on maidenhair ferns.

**KEEP** after slugs, pillbugs (sow bugs), etc.; cold weather does not stop them.

**FERTILIZE** platyceriums (stag horns) — give bone meal, hoof and horn, or a high nitrogen liquid.

**TAKE** “pups” from platyceriums and mount.

**REPLANT** spores.

**CHECK** any hidden or covered plants to see they get water.

**REPOT**, rebasket, and divide ferns in frost free areas.

**COVER** and protect plants during the night in frost areas. Cover with newspaper, sheets or plastic bags. Place in garage if necessary.



## FRUIT TREES AND VINES

Vincent Lazaneo

**FINISH** pruning dormant deciduous trees and vines before leaf buds start to grow.

**PRUNE** evergreens just before or when new growth begins if frost injury is not likely.

**SPRAY** dormant deciduous trees and vines with horticultural oil before buds begin to open to control overwintering insect pests.

**SPRAY** dormant peach and nectarine trees with a fungicide such as lime sulfur (calcium polysulfide) before buds begin to open to control leaf curl.

**PLANT** dormant bare root trees and vines.

**PAINT** the trunks with whitewash to protect the bark from sunburn injury.

**PROVIDE** frost protection for young citrus and other subtropical fruit trees.



## FUCHSIAS

**CUT** back in frost free areas and take cuttings.

**REMOVE** all dead foliage and blossoms.

**CLEAN** pots and baskets of anything that might hide fungus or insect eggs.

**SPRAY** to eliminate pests that might winter over.

**FERTILIZE** those plants showing new growth with high nitrogen.





## GERANIUMS

Carol Roller

**WATER** thoroughly when plants become somewhat dry. Allow excess water to drain away. Keep foliage as dry as possible.

**CONTINUE** feeding with a balanced fertilizer dissolved in water. Use at less than the recommended strength. Apply as often as needed to keep plants growing well.

**CONTINUE** a pest control and disease prevention program, using according to the manufacturers' direction. **PRUNE** any plants which have not been cut back. At least one green leaf should remain on stems of regals, scented, and similar types. Lanky plants which were pruned earlier can be cut back again to produce more compact plants. Tip pinch other plants which were pruned in the fall.

**MAKE** cuttings from the prunings. Shelter cuttings from extreme weather.

**PROTECT** plants from freezing temperatures. Temporary covering may be used. Containerized plants may be moved to a sheltered location.

**CONTINUE** to rotate plants on a regular basis in order to keep them well shaped.



## IRIS

San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society

**PLANT** last bulbous iris for spring bloom.

**CONTINUE** a watering program, especially if rains are light.

**SPRAY** regularly with copper oil for rust.

**ESTABLISH** a regular program of snail, slug and aphid control.

**KEEP** old brown fans cut off of tall-bearded iris; good ground cleaning and spraying is helpful in pest control.

**START** to feed all iris with 0-10-10 liquid fertilizer in February. Follow directions and do not over fertilize.



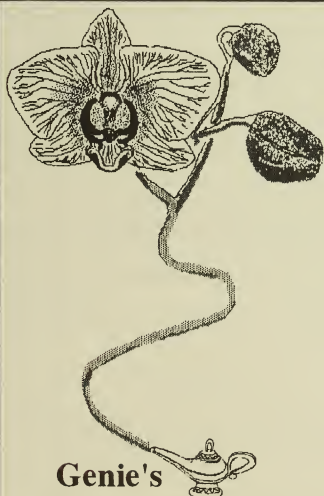
## NATIVE PLANTS

Jeanine De Hart

**HAVE** most of your native plants in the ground so their roots will grow deep.

**AUGMENT** winter rains with *deep* infrequent waterings.

**BEGIN** to see the early blooms of *Ceanothus*, both in the wild and in your yard.



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**CHECK** *Ceanothus* (particularly the large leaf varieties) for swelling of the stem near the buds. Cut off all swollen portions, even if it means sacrificing most of the blossoms for the season. Cut one swollen bud in two — the small worm you will see is larva from the *ceanothus* stem gall moth, (*Periplaca ceanothiella*).

**TREAT** infected plants with a systemic such as Orthene™. These insect larvae are totally surrounded and protected by the gall, biological controls such as B.t. will not work.



## ORCHIDS

Charles Fouquette

**WATCH** for slugs and snails.

**WATCH** for sudden temperature changes.

**WATER** as early in the day as possible, so plants will be dry by nightfall.

**CHECK** the moisture in orchids that are grown outside — don't be fooled by overcast days.

**DRY** out the New World orchids that are outside. Winter can be the driest time of the year in Central America and Southern Mexico. Consider the origin of your laelias, oncidiums, catasetums. For detailed information on growing, check with the orchid society in your vicinity.

**GIVE** nobile dendrobiums a cool dry time and more light. Don't water or feed until after the buds have formed and the growth is underway.

**STAKE** cymbidium spikes — do not rotate the plants. Place plants with yellow and green flowers in the shade to retain better color and to keep them from fading.

**DO** last repotting of phalaenopsis and be careful — some of the spring blooms will be starting to spike.

**USE** low nitrogen fertilizer on cymbidiums. Do not overfeed. Give 10-20-30 or 6-30-30 at ½ teaspoon per gallon every other watering and flush well with clear water every fourth watering.

**GIVE** phalaenopsis an even fertilizer if using an inorganic potting media. If growing in bark, give a 30-10-10 or 10-5-5 at ½ teaspoon per gallon every other week.

**CHECK** the heater for spider webs, clogged flues and small orifices. Check for leaks. It would be a shame to lose a fine spike of award-winning orchids for lack of maintenance. Spring Orchid Shows are just around the corner — be prepared.

## ROSES

San Diego Rose Society

**FINISH** all major pruning.

**FOLLOW** pruning with a garden cleanup.

**ATTEND** pruning demonstration in Balboa Park

Rose Garden in San Diego on January 9.

**USE** dormant spray on bushes and surrounding area.

**PLANT** bare root roses. Mound each bush with damp mulch material until new growth starts, to prevent dehydration.

**FEED** and cultivate established roses as new growth starts.

**GIVE** newly planted bushes a liquid fertilizer six weeks after planting.

**START** preventative spraying in February for mildew and aphids, using ½ strength on new foliage.

**ADD** iron chelates after roots start growing. Iron can be absorbed only by new roots.

**ESTABLISH** a regular watering and spraying program.

## VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo



**CONTINUE** planting cool-season vegetables not likely to be damaged by frost. Cool-season vegetables include broccoli, brussel sprouts, beets, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, endive, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, peas, potatoes (white), radish, rutabaga and turnip. **USE** floating row-cover fabric on seeded and transplanted crops to accelerate their growth.

**PLANT** dormant crowns of artichoke, asparagus and rhubarb.

**PLANT** seed of medium day-length onions such as White Sweet Spanish, Stockton Yellow Globe and Italian Red (short storage life) during February for bulbs in late summer.

**ORDER** seeds of warm season vegetables for planting in spring.

## GREEN THUMB

Penny Bunker

**SPRAY** deciduous trees and shrubs with a combination insecticide and fungicide, such as oil and lime sulphur or copper. Follow directions as given. Continue bait for slugs and snails.

**PRUNE** flowering trees and shrubs. Pruning at this time will shape the plants and the flowers may be used in arrangements.

**PLANT** bare root trees.

**CUT** chrysanthemums back to the ground.

**PLANT** hybrid amaryllis bulbs, with the tip of nose just showing in a sunny or semi-shade area.

**START** planting gladiolus bulbs; make successive plantings at monthly intervals for flowers over a longer period of time.

**MAKE** marguerite cuttings from new tips. Remove lower leaves and insert cuttings in rooting medium. Keep in shaded place until rooted.

**PRUNE** old branches of pyracanthas after berries are gone and shape as necessary.

**DIVIDE** and transplant Shasta daisies.



# Jewels of Nature

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**SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY**

# MORE WAYS TO KILL ORCHIDS (Part II)

Harry Tolen

**L**AST ISSUE we covered six of thirteen painfully learned lessons from many years of orchid culture. Briefly: 1) Beware of bargains. 2) Don't shop in someone else's trash can. 3) Buy mature plants, not pieces. 4) Know who you are buying your orchids for. 5) Check sources before you mail order. 6) Do *not* over fertilize.

**LESSON SEVEN** - A cattleya problem can arise that doesn't show itself until you are in trouble. Each new cattleya growth has a protective sheath around the bulb. The new bulb is very tender and crisp. A jolt or bump could easily snap it into pieces, like a stick of chalk. The stringy, tough sheath protects the bulb during its development. In maturity the protective covering is no longer needed and turns brown.

It is a good idea to remove the dried sheath from the plant. Simply split it and pull it off with your fingers, or direct a running hose at it. Just after watering the old covering is soft and comes off easily by hand.

This will also help in avoiding scale and mealy bug. These critters love to get behind the covering and chew away where you can't see them. If you find scale you can generally rub them off with your finger. They don't bite. I like to squash the little buggers with my bare hands!! But if you are squeamish, use a Q-tip™ or a small gob of moss to rub them off. Put this plant where you can watch it. It will probably require treatment a few times to clear up the problem.

If you get a scale infestation under the old sheaths, you will first notice that some of the leaves, maybe only one, will turn a very unnatural yellow. Peeling away the brown sheath should reveal scale. If it's severe, get some insecticide recommended for scale, and follow directions. A soft textured toothbrush will help you get in and around the hardest places.

**LESSON EIGHT** - While you're looking for bugs, how about pulling all the nasty oxalis too! Isn't it exciting to get a box of plants in the mail, and two weeks later all the "freebies", usually oxalis, start coming up in the pots. My best advice is to pull the little rascals before they can flower and seed. Oxalis completes this cycle when very small, so pull it before it is an inch tall. Keep it up until all the seeds have germinated!

With a severe infestation of oxalis you must repot the plant. Don't save any of the old mix, it is full of seeds. When you pull oxalis from between the roots of the orchid, get the whole weed, not just the top or the result works like pruning a hedge; branches all over the place. Random seeds will germinate later, just pull them when they come

up. To combat this I repot my cattleyas frequently. If I don't get the weeds out before a customer purchases the plant, guess who gets the privilege?!

The removal of oxalis in cymbidiums requires digging into the mix to get to the oxalis roots. I grow my cymbidiums in a very light peat moss and perlite mix. When I see even a tiny oxalis plant it is simple to grab the root of the oxalis by pinching the soil around it and pulling it all out of the soft mix. This task requires frequent policing because the oxalis seems to start any time. There are chemicals to kill oxalis, even around plants and orchids. Ask your local nursery, I have never used them.

**LESSON NINE** - When I started out my second biggest problem was resisting the natural tendency to overwater. Yes, I read all the warnings about overwatering. But writers tend not to be specific about watering. Once I wrote to Mexico City for a special booklet on growing odontoglossums — ready to learn the watering secrets. This is an exact quote! "Watering - You should water neither too little nor too much!" Thanks a lot!!!

Good drainage is a critical element in the watering issue. You just can't provide too much drainage. The better the drainage the better the plants will grow. A lot of other factors are involved, but drainage gets my vote as the *number one*. Most orchids will start to lose the root system and stop growing in a week or two if the roots are constantly wet. On the other hand, an orchid growing in any mix and left unwatered will probably take three months to capitulate! Putting an inch or two of the styrofoam "peanuts" in a regular sized pot, and then placing the plant on top with its regular potting mix helps considerably.

I like the shallowest pots that I can find for orchids. Some called "azalea" pots with eight to ten drainage holes are nice and don't need any more holes. A new very shallow pot called a "bulb pan" is becoming available in most sizes. I use my regular cattleya planting mix and the plants do very well. Planting just to the step in the pot side, any type of planting mix will still drain in these shallow pots. They only have four holes but the mix is only about 2 1/2" deep, even in an 8" pot. Most stock gallon nursery pots have a minimum of four thumb-size holes. Pick pots with the most drain holes and use the old packing "peanuts" for the bottom two inches or so to keep the holes from getting plugged up. You can "melt" new holes with a hot nail.

When is enough drainage, enough? Three or four years ago a large dendrobium fell out of its pot. I wired a large hook support for the plant and hung it up in the greenhouse! It produces new growth and has nine to twelve flower spikes each year. This is a plant just hanging in the air. Okay, it is greenhouse air, very humid and rarely under 55°F. but just air. As long as the nutrients wash over the plant it will grow. It has been there now for almost four years, and is a real conversation piece.



Putting plants in pots is just for *our* convenience. The plant does fine in nature growing on trees, rocks, etc. Growing them in the greenhouse unpotted would be a little unhandy, they would grow right to the walls and benches. **LESSON TEN** - If you want your plants to grow well, find out about terms like "2500-3500 footcandles", "Ph of 6.0", "65% humidity". Do you have these conditions?

To check them out you'll need a light meter, a Ph meter, and a hygrometer. The light meter indicates lighting conditions in footcandles. The Ph meter, well, what else, acidity or alkalinity. And the hygrometer will read the humidity, the amount of water vapor in the air — critical to *air* plants.

Light meters run about \$60 to \$80, Ph meters from \$35 to a bunch, and hygrometers from \$50 to \$90. You can find them cheaper, but the accuracy is not very good or consistent. If you see a shelf-full, check them all for agreement. Those in bubble packs will be tougher because they measure only the air in the pack. When I first started a light meter was \$300 (worth \$6000 in current money), so not many people had them then. Get the instruments and use them. Borrow or buy them, but *use them*. Check these factors for the plants you grow. It will help so much.

My greenhouse is about 25 years old and looks like it did when I built it. When I put it up I checked the light, reading about 2000 footcandles at the roof level and about 1500 at the bench level. A recent customer asked why I kept it so dark. I said "2000 footcandles was plenty". He said "Would you believe 900 at the roof and 500 at the bench top?" Checking readings with his instrument and verifying with mine...he was right! I never noticed the change. What I took to be burning from too much sun, was actually from too much heat, 110°F. Ouch! Now you check with instruments to see if you have the proper requirements.

**LESSON ELEVEN** - Stop, Look, and Listen! As you stroll through your plants, take time to look at them. If you spot anything that might be a problem, check it out and apply corrective measures. The American Orchid Society has an excellent handbook on pests and diseases. You will probably find your problem and the treatment listed. New problems are hard to come by, it's usually one of a myriad of ailments with a tested cure. If you spot something unfamiliar and can't find it listed, just ask at the next Orchid Society meeting or write the American Orchid Society. Most problems have already been answered.

Keep a log of problems you encounter, the actions you take, and which works best. Someday you can write an article for *California Garden* magazine!

**LESSON TWELVE** - Repotting is important in growing orchids, the mix must not decay and rot, it must be kept "fresh". One friend uses a small label to record the repots and the flowering cycle of the plant. He writes "repot" on one side and "bloom" on the other and fills in the date for

a reliable and handy record. Another friend has so many plants he keeps no individual records, he repots at specific intervals whether they need it or not. He can tell from experience when several plants need a change of potting mix. He repots the entire greenhouse full of plants. To keep track he simply changes pot color from green to orange, next time from orange to white, etc.

**LESSON THIRTEEN** - You already have taken a step in your "orchid" training, you are obviously reading about the care and culture. This is one of the best ways to learn the basics. Now you need to try out what you've read to see how it goes, and get your tail down to the closest orchid society or two (see Affiliates, page 29) and get involved. Orchids are the largest flowering group of plants in the world, you will never get bored, there is always another type to try.

I leave you with this parting shot, I want to make sure you don't forget. **The three most important things about orchid growing, DRAINAGE!! DRAINAGE!! DRAINAGE!!**  
Happy Growing!

\* \* \*

HARRY TOLEN is the Supreme Commander of Chula Orchids, 230 Chula Vista Street, Chula Vista.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** It's not too early to put the San Diego County Orchid Society's 47th Annual Show and Plant Sale on your new 1993 calendar, March 12-14. Also, see Book Reviews for new book on species orchids.



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# SEWAGE SLUDGE TO GARDENERS' GOLD

Lucy Warren

**M**OST GARDENERS are recyclers by their very nature. Those who take pride in their flowers and vegetables soon become aware of the benefits of compost in our usually less-than-ideal soils. It was through a gardener's inspiration that the community of Fallbrook began a unique experiment which benefits the soil and the community, as well. Bill Morgan, past president of the Fallbrook Garden Club and current vice president of the Fallbrook Public Utility District, first began experimenting with the composting of sewage sludge about five years ago.



Photo by Lucy Warren

The system which has been developed reduces landfill, does not pollute the ocean, and provides the end product of excellent compost, processed by thousands of hungry earthworms. Good gardeners thrill at the sight of earthworms in their gardens. Earthworms aerate the soil and also process organic matter into a nutrient rich material most easily absorbed by plant roots. The Fallbrook Sanitary District depends on the earthworms voracious appetite to naturally process literally tons of composted mulch into one of the richest garden supplements available. Everyone benefits, even the well-fed worms.

We went out to the Fallbrook Sanitary District to see exactly how the process works. It begins with the sludge ponds where material is stored before initiating the process. Each day about 30,000 gallons of Fallbrook's municipal sewage sludge is separated from the wastewater entering the Sanitary District's water reclamation facility.

Separated sludge is thoroughly digested, a treatment process that breaks down organic materials and reduces obnoxious odors. Stabilized sludge is then pumped to the District's composting facility south of the plant for further treatment. Once there, it is sent through a belt press to

squeeze out excess water. This is where we picked up the process. The initial material looks like thick muddy water. The liquid is reduced to a consistency similar to mud pies.

At this point the material is mixed with organic matter, approximately two parts sludge to one part bulking material, and put in open bins to naturally compost. A parasitic wasp is used to control flies. Much of the bulking material comes from the Del Mar Track as used bedding straw. SDG&E is another source of ground up tree branches and plant material. The open bins have a perforated pipe running through them to aerate the piles without having to turn them. As the pile decomposes and creates heat, the temperature of each pile is monitored, for the compost must reach at least 131°F. Piles usually reach temperatures of 155-165°F and remain static for about 45 days.

This material is now composted. Until the facility reaches full production, some of the bulk compost is sold for mulch. But Fallbrook takes the process farther to create an even more valuable product for gardeners. The composted material is ground up and about 95 cubic yards a week are spread on top of great flat surfaces, adding about one inch per week to a series of 18 worm beds. The beds are harvested once every three to four months.

Obligingly, the worms feed on about the first 4" to 6" of the bed and happily eat their own weight in compost daily. Because the worms remain in the top few inches of

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~~~~~

the material where the most recent compost has been deposited, at harvest the top layer is skimmed off to the adjacent bed and the worms are hardly disturbed as they begin the process again. The base of the original bed is gathered and bagged for sale.

Vermigro™, the resulting worm-processed compost or worm castings is lower in heavy metals and highly stable. It is capable of holding 130-150% of its own weight in water because of its fine texture. Until this past summer, only Fallbrook residents were able to acquire the composted sludge under the trademarked name Vermigro™. But distribution of Vermigro™ is increasing and soon gardeners throughout the San Diego will be able to buy this improved composted material.

Bill Morgan added Vermigro™ to an open space area near a new retirement development where he now lives. The plot's sandy loam and sandy clay loam soil contained very little humus. He dug a pit two feet deep and put in a combination of straw and steer manure which was then covered with the original soil mixed with Vermigro™, two parts soil to one part Vermigro™. The resulting vegetable crop is dramatic. Good for the sanitary district, good for the community, good for the worms, good for gardeners!

\*\*\*

*SOME RETAIL NURSERY OUTLETS: Walter Andersen's, Ouchi's, City Farmers', Nurseryland, L&M Fertilizer, Old Town, Nickerson's, Good Guys Home Center, Poway Nursery.*



## TRAINING AND PRUNING BLACKBERRIES

Joyce Gemmell with Betty Newton

**YOUR GOAL** is juicy, fresh-from-the-garden blackberries to put on cereal or ice cream, or to eat plain. But blackberries are space-greedy plants. Are they suited to the tiny gardens of today? They want full sun, trellising and annual pruning.

Blackberries come from a long-lived root that produces canes which live two years. The first year the canes grow; the second year the canes produce fruit on short lateral branches. Meanwhile, next year's fruiting canes are sprouting and will bear the following year.

If you plant just one row, make it 10' wide. Then you can pick from two sides. The canes may make a 5' wide mass when mature. Orient the row north to south for even sun exposure.

A simple pole and two-wire trellis helps keep canes in place. Use 5' to 6' tall, stout poles. Run the bottom wire between the poles 2½' to 3' high and the top wire at 5' or 6'. When you first plant blackberries, leave the first year's growth on the ground, but in the fall tie the long viny canes up on the wires.

There are two ways to train canes. Pick up the new canes, selected for their vigorous look — ones which grew during the summer, and either 1) cut them off at 6' and tie to the wires in a fan or 2) wrap them over the top wire and down to the bottom and tie. By the fourth year you may be lacing eight to ten canes per plant up and over the wires. Cut off the rest.

If you have a erect-growing variety, tie the canes in a fan pattern to allow good air circulation.

*Cut the canes which bore this year to the ground in January.* Remember they only produce for one year.

If cane tops touch the ground they will root and make an impenetrable thicket. Remove the suckers that sprout this way.

**Spraying:** The red berry mite is a serious pest which can be controlled with a lime sulfur spray. Spray when new growth (laterals from the canes) is ¾" long. This might be in February on the coast and March in Alpine. The lime sulfur spray will finish the winter work on your berries and set the stage for a good yield spring through summer.

\*\*\*

JOYCE GEMMELL is a longtime vegetable gardening teacher for Grossmont Adult School.

BETTY NEWTON is a garden writer and teaches at Foothills Adult School in El Cajon.

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## Book Reviews

**Bruce Pavlik; Pamela C. Muick; Sharon Johnson; and Marjorie Popper**

### **OAKS OF CALIFORNIA**

Cachuma Press, softcover \$21.95, hardcover \$29.95

All California conservationists should have this book! Beautifully illustrated and photographed with drawings and water colors by Allison Atwill. Excellent range maps as well as clear and detailed maps show oak groves everywhere in the state. It lists both scientific and common names for oaks, also the associated plants and animals.

In addition to its beauty, the content is meaty and thought provoking. Native oak communities form the backbone of California's flora and fauna. From the chapter "Wildlife and Oaks"... "Oaks produce a cornucopia of wildlife foods, including acorns, leaves, twigs, sap, roots and pollen... From treetops to root tips, every part of an oak community is utilized for shelter..."

"California Oaks and the Human Past" describes explorers crossing the Sierra Nevada "...as men led by Walker struggled across the high, cold mountains with few provisions, a scout brought a load of acorns back to camp, which were apparently dropped by a startled Indian. 'These nuts caused no little rejoicing in our camp, not only on account of their value as food, but because they gave us gratifying evidence that a country mild and salubrious enough to produce acorns was not far distant.'"

Other chapters describe the diversity, landscapes, associated wildlife and history of California oaks with a vitally important chapter on a strategy for oak conservation — how to preserve and restore them for future generations.

*Oaks of California* is hard working and handsome. You should own two — one for travel, the other to preserve from wear at home. Consider a copy of this book to give as a gift to someone you hold dear.

REVIEW BY MARY RENAKER

\*\*\*

**McHoy, Peter**

### **THE EVENING GARDEN**

Ward Lock, London, U.S. distributor: Sterling Publishing Co., NY, 1991, 80 pages, 30 color photos, b/w illust., 8 1/2" x 8 1/4", softcover, \$8.95

"This book is about the decorative use of garden lights, not house and garden security, but it makes sense if you can combine the two." This quote accurately describes the scope of Peter McHoy's book. He is concerned with the

enjoyment of gardens after dark. Although his primary interest is in the use of lighting, he does not forget to give advice on how to provide fragrance and how to use water to enhance his designs. He discusses various types of lights with practical information about equipment and power systems. Using this book, any garden owner can create an outdoor entertainment area for many types of events, from a romantic meal to a large party. Recipes for barbecue dishes are given, plus interesting desserts, some needing translation from British to American terms. Readers should remember two other factors — in Britain, twilight lasts longer than it does in Southern California, and their term "patio" means any outdoor paved area, not necessarily attached to a home or other structure. Even those who cannot or do not want to have a lighted garden will find this book appealing.

REVIEW BY ELSIE TOPHAM

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**Frazer, Stewart**

### **BRICKWORK FOR BEGINNERS**

Ward Lock, London, U.S. distributor: Sterling Publishing Co., NY, 1991, 96 pages, 19 b&w drawings, 4 1/4" x 7 1/2", softcover, \$5.95

Even if you have never laid brick in your life, you will come away from this book ready to tackle some of the projects, such as a patio barbecue, a planter, or a birdbath. There is enough good information to lead you from start to finish on these and other projects. The writing is clear and assumes no prior knowledge on your part. Problems that might be encountered are addressed, as well as instruction on mixing mortar and cement.

Dimensions are given both in metric and in yards, feet and inches with which we are more familiar. Great for the library of the do-it-yourselfer.

REVIEW BY JEANINE DE HART

\*\*\*

**Baker, Margaret L.**

**ORCHID SPECIES CULTURE; Pescatorea, Phaius, Phalaenopsis, Pholidota, Phragmipedium, and Pleione**  
Timber Press, Portland, OR, 1991, 250 pages, 7 color photos, 8 1/2" x 11", softcover, \$19.95

The growing of species orchids is becoming a popular specialization among orchid lovers. This welcome book fills a long term void for orchid growers. Before 1991, growers had to poke about in different books to ferret out culture information. Now, it is all in one place, in a single comprehensive and informative book. The alphabetical listings of species are clear and encyclopedic. Information on general species culture includes discussion of disputed practices. There is also detailed information on disease prevention, identification and treatment plant problems. Blooming orchids require control of many variables. Here is an exhaustive treatment of those variables for each specie.

REVIEW BY ELLEN GILLIS

Arms, Karen

## ENVIRONMENTAL GARDENING

Halfmoon Publishing, Savannah, 1992, 308 pages, b&w illust., 8 1/2" x 11", softcover, \$23.95

In her preface Karen Arms, a biologist by profession, describes this book as "a guide to understanding how a garden is part of a larger environment." In this purpose she succeeds very well, and the wealth of gardening information she provides answers many questions. Readers would do well to study the introduction carefully; it contains very good definitions of the terms: *environmental gardening*, *xeriscape* and *ethical gardening*, and discusses the goals of an environmental gardener. The list of chapter headings, ten in all, is subdivided with titles which beckon attention, such as Green Manure, Building a Misting Table, and Gray Plants and White Gardens, among others. This is a very comprehensive text, full of helpful hints and instructions. It has been given an excellent list of references, and index and glossary, and a list of sources which includes some overseas addresses. The black and white illustrations are attractive and dramatic and there are many charts and tables. Even a few recipes! Recommended for most libraries.

REVIEW BY ELSIE TOPHAM

Halliwell, Brian

## THE PROPAGATION OF ALPINE PLANTS AND DWARF BULBS

Timber Press, Portland, OR, 1992, 208 pages, 45 b&w illust., 6 1/2" x 9 1/2", hardcover, \$24.95 + \$3.75 shipping.

From the first sentence *The Propagation of Alpine Plants and Dwarf Bulbs* is packed with clear explanations of how to grow new plants from seeds as well as from soft and hardwood cuttings, leaf and root cuttings, and by layering and grafting. Detailed drawings add to the clarity. Soil formulas are provided for specific purposes. Methods of preparation and care of seeds and cuttings are given.

A section that goes beyond the ordinary is for serious gardeners who wish to propagate bulbs, corms, tubers and ferns. It is appropriately called "Special Techniques".

Part II, *Recommended Propagation Methods for Individual Plants*, lists over 1,000 plants giving family name, habits, hardiness and proper techniques for success. Indeed a rich resource!

REVIEW BY PATT SIGG

## Various-Edited by Janet Marinelli THE ENVIRONMENTAL GARDEN

Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Inc., Brooklyn, NY, 1992, 96 pages, 54 color photos, 2 b&w illust., 4 color illust., 6" x 9", softcover, \$6.95

These small books are published quarterly and are included in the membership to Brooklyn Botanic Garden (membership is \$25 yearly). This issue is packed with information on composting, natural pest control and water efficient gardening. The photography is excellent. For this issue, there is a California garden as well as an Arizona garden featured. If you look this book over, you are sure to become a member so as not to miss an issue!

REVIEW BY JEANINE DE HART

\*\*\*

Jefferson-Brown, Michael

## HARDY FERNS

Ward Lock, London, U.S. distributor: Sterling Publishing Co., New York, 96 pages, 29 color illust., 9 1/2" x 8 1/2", hardcover, \$24.95

Here is a book in the series *Foliage Plants in Garden Design* devoted to that most delightful and varied plant, the fern. It is a valuable guide for adding interest and beauty to the garden. Beginning gardener to landscaping enthusiast will be pleased with the line illustrations detailing versions of a *fernery*, a portion of the garden devoted to growing and showing ferns to best advantage.

Interesting sections include: a listing of the top ten ferns suggested for a starter collection; a listing of selected ferns by height; plants to associate with ferns at wet and waterside locations, and in typical temperate gardens. Chapters cover botanical nomenclature, growth habits and propagation. The author lists over 100 species and cultivars, including the common name and natural distribution. Each entry describes the appearance of the plant, the requirements for successful growing, and suggestions for usage in the garden.

Although written for the British gardener, Southern Californians will find this lavishly illustrated resource very useful. Full page color photos of ferns in the garden in peak conditions make one want to start a *fernery*, or at least search for another treasure to add to the garden.

REVIEW BY SUSAN FOX



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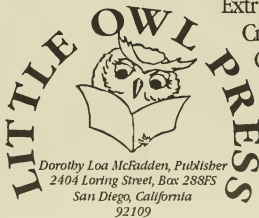
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Twice Annually By Call of President

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Salton City CA 92274-2109

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College, Horticulture Building #T8

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Rancho Santa Fe CA 92067-0483

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1st Fri - 12:00 pm, Vista Senior Service Center,  
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La Jolla CA 92037-2048

619/457-4626

4th Wed - 10:00 am, Sep-Jun, Casa del Prado,  
Balboa Park

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2nd Tues - 10:00 am

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Springville CA 93265-0640

209/539-2145

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619/670-0830

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619/284-2813

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Rm 104, Balboa Park

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5080 Dawne Street  
San Diego CA 92117-1351

619/277-1030

1st Thu - 7:45 pm, Byzantine Catholic Church,  
2235 Galahad Road, Serra Mesa

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Escondido CA 92033-0840

619/753-3651

4th Sat - 12:45 pm, Joslyn Senior Center,  
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### SUCCULENT SOCIETY

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### SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Pres: Mrs. Beth Kalal  
560 H Avenue  
Coronado CA 92118-1624

619/435-1989

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### AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY INC.

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Toledo OH 43612-2530

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San Diego CA 92111-4108

619/279-5135

4th Tue - 7:30 pm, except Jul/Dec,  
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Pres: Mr. George Plaisted  
6356 Delbarton Street  
San Diego CA 92120-2618

619/583-9551

2nd Wed - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado,  
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### SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY

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La Jolla CA 92037-3710

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619/656-0632

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6356 Delbarton Street  
San Diego CA 92120-2618

619/583-9551

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Pres: Mariette Pinchart  
1601 Burgundy Road  
Encinitas CA 92024-1208  
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Quail Botanical Gardens, Encinitas

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San Diego CA 92109-1314

619/273-4267

North County 619/432-8640

Mar/Jun/Sep/Dec, various locations

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#### SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL COUNTIES

#### IRIS SOCIETY

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4486 Ute Drive  
San Diego CA 92117-5855

619/483-5144

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#### SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Pres: John Stellini  
Contact: Frances Rynearson  
7733 Ivanhoe Avenue East  
La Jolla CA 92037-3718

619/459-1235

1st Mon - Feb/May/Aug/Nov, Rm 103,  
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

### MACADAMIA

#### CALIFORNIA MACADAMIA SOCIETY

Pres: Jim Russell  
P. O. Box 1290  
Fallbrook CA 92028-0909

619/728-8081

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#### CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

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5524 Waverly Avenue  
La Jolla CA 92037-7646

619/459-7847

3rd Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

#### LAKE HODGES NATIVE PLANT CLUB

Pres: Dorothy Frisbie  
P. O. Box 288003  
San Diego CA 92128-0991

619/741-0829

3rd Mon - 2:00 pm, Home Fed Bank,  
16789 Bernardo Center Drive, Rancho Bernardo

### ORCHID

#### CYMBIDIUM SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC. SAN DIEGO COUNTY BRANCH

Pres: Bette Mackenberg  
3567 Mira Pacific Drive  
Oceanside CA 92056-3910

619/757-4527

3rd Wed - 7:30 pm, Sep-Jun, Woman's Club of  
Carlsbad, 3320 Monroe Street, Carlsbad

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Pres: Mr. Keith Fuller  
3375 Garibaldi Place  
Carlsbad CA 92008-2157

619/729-6110

2nd Fri - 7:30 pm, Vista Senior Center,  
222 Jefferson St, Vista

#### SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

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310 Seeman Drive  
Encinitas CA 92024-2840

619/753-6952

1st Tue - 7:30 pm, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

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1380 Caliente Loop  
Chula Vista CA 91910-6840

Eve. 619/421-1809

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3rd Tue - 7:00 pm, except Jul & Aug,  
Bonita Valley Baptist Church, 4701 Sweetwater  
Road, Bonita

### ORGANIC GARDEN CLUB SAN DIEGO

Pres: Mr. Stan Rys  
1233 Hayes Avenue  
San Diego CA 92103-2310

619/298-9118

3rd Fri - 7:30 pm, Jan/Mar/May/Jul/Sep/Oct,  
Casa del Prado, Balboa Park

### ROSE

#### EAST COUNTY ROSE SOCIETY

Pres: Sally Long  
1663 Fuerte Ranch Road  
El Cajon CA 92019-3730

1st Sun - 2:00 pm, Gardens of Members

#### SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY

Pres: Pat Keating  
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La Jolla CA 92037-7435

619/459-5084

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619/459-0316

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619/296-9687

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4040 Mars Way  
La Mesa CA 91941-7248

619/670-4010

**AFFILIATES:** To update your listing, send address changes to: Nancy Cottingham, Affiliates Editor *California Garden*, Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park, San Diego CA 92101-1619. Call 222-4616. Deadline for Mar-Apr issue: January 15, 1992.



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# DESERT WONDERS - BUS TOUR - FEB. 21-22

Helen A. Gagliardi

**D**URING THE comfortable days of February the desert has a very special charm. There are shady oases created by the continuous flowing waters that seep along the disturbed plates of the infamous San Andreas Fault. Travelers have found beauty and relaxation here. Some prefer the natural untouched areas while others flock to the famous resorts. You can do both on February 21 - 22.

Our journey will begin quite early on Sunday morning. This allows us to reach Santa Ysabel Mission in time for a mini-breakfast: coffee and some of Dudley's famous baked goods. Then on to our next objective, the vast date gardens planted and cultivated since the early 1900's.

After lunch (included) we'll tour the Coachilla Valley Preserve where crystal clear springs support the lush greenery of the tall palms. This last undisturbed watershed supports a complex diversity of plants and animal life.

That evening you'll relax at the Travelers Inn in Palm Desert, use the pool, the jacuzzi or the putting green. Dinner on your own at one of the eight or ten restaurants within walking distance, or ride the courtesy van. Those with additional energy might opt to attend the nearby Indio Date Festival. The Arabian Nights Pageant at 6:45 precedes the big stage show.

After a continental breakfast on Monday, we'll enjoy the many splendors of the Living Desert. The distinctive plants from ten varied regions have been conveniently located along well-marked paths. Many people consider

this to be the highlight of the trip; but others might rate even higher the ambience of Palm Springs with its many attractions. That scenic spot is on our afternoon agenda.

An early dinner (included) that day will be at a historic inn which has served the hungry traveler since 1887.

If this itinerary appeals to you, fill out the coupon. Then bring a camera, a sweater, swimsuit, sun hat, dark glasses, comfortable walking shoes and prepare to savor a unique environment shaped by nature and enhanced by man. Your motel, two breakfasts, one lunch, one dinner and all admissions are included. The Indio Date Festival is an option.

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## February Flower Arranging Classes

**F**EBRUARY IS full of flowers if you take advantage of the flower arranging classes offered by the San Diego Floral Association through its education program. Beginners to advanced students will all enjoy the series of three classes given by instructor Velma West. Bring your own containers, flowers and scissors and you will take home one or more lovely arrangements. Learn tips and guidelines to create consistently beautiful arrangements. Tuesdays, from Feb. 2, 9:30-3 p.m.

More advanced students will appreciate the one day limited class in advanced flower arranging on February 23.

### Bus Tour—Desert Wonders—Feb. 21-22

- ☐ \$105 Members (Who pay dues directly to SDFA)
- ☐ \$115 Nonmembers and Affiliates
- ☐ \$ 4 Admission to Indio Date Festival
- ☐ \$ 35 For single supplement at motel

Total

Checks payable to: San Diego Floral Association

Mail to: Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park,  
San Diego, CA 92101-1619

INCLUDE A SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE

Name ..... Phone .....

Address .....

City ..... CA Zip .....

#### Pickups:

- ☐ Red Lobster Park & Ride, Grossmont, La Mesa, at 6:30 a.m.
- ☐ Fashion Valley, SE corner near Penney's, 7:00 a.m.
- ☐ Penasquitos Blvd. Park & Ride, W of I-15, 7:30 a.m.

(see page 36 - block 4B in Thomas Guide)

### February Flower Arranging Classes

Three class series

- ☐ \$22.50 Members (Who pay dues directly to SDFA)
- ☐ \$25.50 Nonmembers and Affiliates
- ☐ Special Advanced Flower Arranging Class
- ☐ \$15.00

Checks payable to: San Diego Floral Association

Mail to: Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park,  
San Diego, CA 92101-1619

Name ..... Phone .....

Address .....

City ..... CA Zip .....





**SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION**  
*Garden Center and Library*  
Casa del Prado Room 105 San Diego CA 92101-1619  
619/232-5762

*Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California*



## IN AND ABOUT THIS ISSUE

### GENERAL MEETINGS 1992/1993

October 20, February 16  
April 20, June 15  
5:45 p.m.  
Casa del Prado, Room 101  
Balboa Park, San Diego

### OFFICERS

*1st Vice President*  
Helen Gagliardi  
*2nd Vice President*  
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*Treasurer*  
John Lewis  
*Recording Secretary*  
Ann Waters  
*Corresponding Secretary*  
Joan Roman  
*Past President*  
Patricia T. Kastama  
*Office/Financial Secretary*  
Tillie Marcus  
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*Term 1992-1995*  
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Jean E. Johns  
John Stellini

**THE NEW YEAR** brings a time of reflection, a time for renewal, fresh opportunities. In this issue we look beyond our own garden gate to a world which each of us is making just a little better every day. Education, ecology, world politics are all part of our botanical heritage. We appreciate and thank all of our writers, artists and consultants for contributing their talents and creativity to each issue of *California Garden*. Consider what you might contribute as well, each of you in your own way. Your editor, too, is responding to a call to new horizons. I hope that you will greet the new editor of *California Garden* with all the support and enthusiasm which I have been privileged to share with you. Plant your gardens with care, considering the needs of each variety. Every day sow seeds of love and kindness. Weed out those pesky self-serving sprouts of envy, greed and hate. Have patience in growth and pay attention to the needs of others. Enjoy the blossoms and fruits of your labor, sharing your joy of life with everyone, especially your friends and family.

## GETTING TO KNOW SAN DIEGO FLORAL

Pat Kastama

**THE OLD ADAGE** "ask a busy woman when you need something done" must have been written about Jo Rathmann. Even though semi-retired from volunteer activities due to cataract surgery, Jo recently agreed to take on finding hosts and hostesses for the San Diego Floral Association show for Christmas on the Prado. She immediately got on the telephone reaching out to her many contacts in the Floral world.

In the early seventies, before Jo was even a member of Floral, Ethel Hoyt called upon her to chair a flower show. Jo also assisted with Floral activities during the presidencies of Skipper Cope and Jo Westheim.

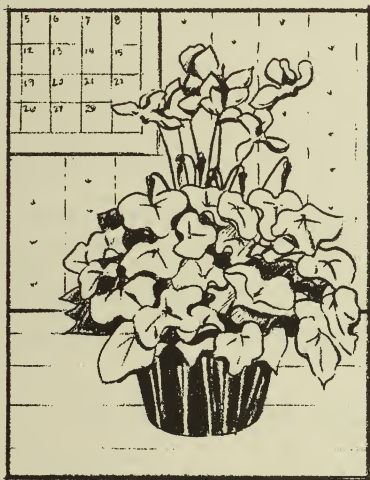
For more than twenty years Jo has been active in the garden club world serving on numerous local, regional and state committees. A long time member of Chula Vista Garden Club, she is a Life Member and a past president. She also served as Director of Palomar District and is currently active in the Village Garden Club of La Jolla.

Jo was a Director of SDFA for six years. Editing the newsletter and being Corresponding Secretary for the Board of Directors were just two of the many positions Jo held before being elected President of the San Diego Floral Association in 1989.

Meanwhile Jo's husband Bill retired in 1977 and he also became active in Floral activities. Bill helped to recruit volunteers to staff the office, mail the magazine and newsletter, and became one of the best volunteers himself. He later took over and reorganized the magazine renewal process.

I particularly appreciated Jo for the wonderful letters she wrote as Corresponding Secretary and Bill for keeping the office candy dish filled.

PAT KASTAMA is past-president of San Diego Floral Association.



## MISSION HILLS NURSERY INTRODUCES MONTHLY MAGIC

Mission Hills Nursery has put together a special program ideal for any plant lover -- up to 12 months of flowering plants delivered right to your door. Each month a new and different plant will arrive, in bud or bloom, in a 6 inch nursery pot wrapped in gold foil. Many of the plants will continue to bloom in future years if planted outdoors. And, the first flower gift will arrive with a stoneware pot absolutely free!



Mission Hills Nursery's Monthly Magic is available in 4, 6 or 12 month packages. Whether for yourself or as a gift, Mission Hills Nursery's Monthly Magic will brighten each month with new fragrance, form and color.

### Delivery Schedule

January - Cyclamen

February - Freesia

March - Blue Hydrangea

April - Alstroemeria

May - Gardenia

June - African Violet

July - Begonia Red Torch

August - Streptocarpus

September - Azalea

October - Exacum

November - Paper White Narcissus

December - Poinsettia

### Three Programs to Choose From

12 Month - \$199.99\*

6 Month - \$99.99\*

4 Month - \$69.99\*

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\*Delivery free within the greater San Diego area. Delivery charges apply to orders sent outside San Diego. Call for shipping charges.



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